

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

HEALTH POLICY
Senator Diaz, Chair
Senator Brodeur, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 13, 2021

TIME: 9:00—11:30 a.m.

PLACE: *Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Diaz, Chair; Senator Brodeur, Vice Chair; Senators Albritton, Baxley, Bean, Book, Cruz, Garcia, Jones, and Powell

		BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER		
1	Update on COVID-19 status and mitigation efforts by the Department of Health and the Agency for Health Care Administration		

Other Related Meeting Documents

Florida's COVID-19 Response Updates

**Senate Health Policy Committee
October 13, 2021**



**Melissa Murray Jordan, MS, MPH
Director, Division of Community Health Promotion
Florida Department of Health**



The Florida Department of Health (FDOH), comprised of a state health office in Tallahassee and 67 county health departments, operates as an integrated public health system.

Florida's COVID-19 Response

<i>Protect the Vulnerable Seniors First</i>		
Education	Prevention	Treatment
Educate and inform Floridians on the benefits of COVID-19 vaccines.	Ensure COVID-19 testing and vaccine resources are available and accessible statewide.	Ensure authorized and approved COVID-19 treatments are available and accessible statewide.

COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Race and Ethnicity

March 1, 2020 - October 7, 2021

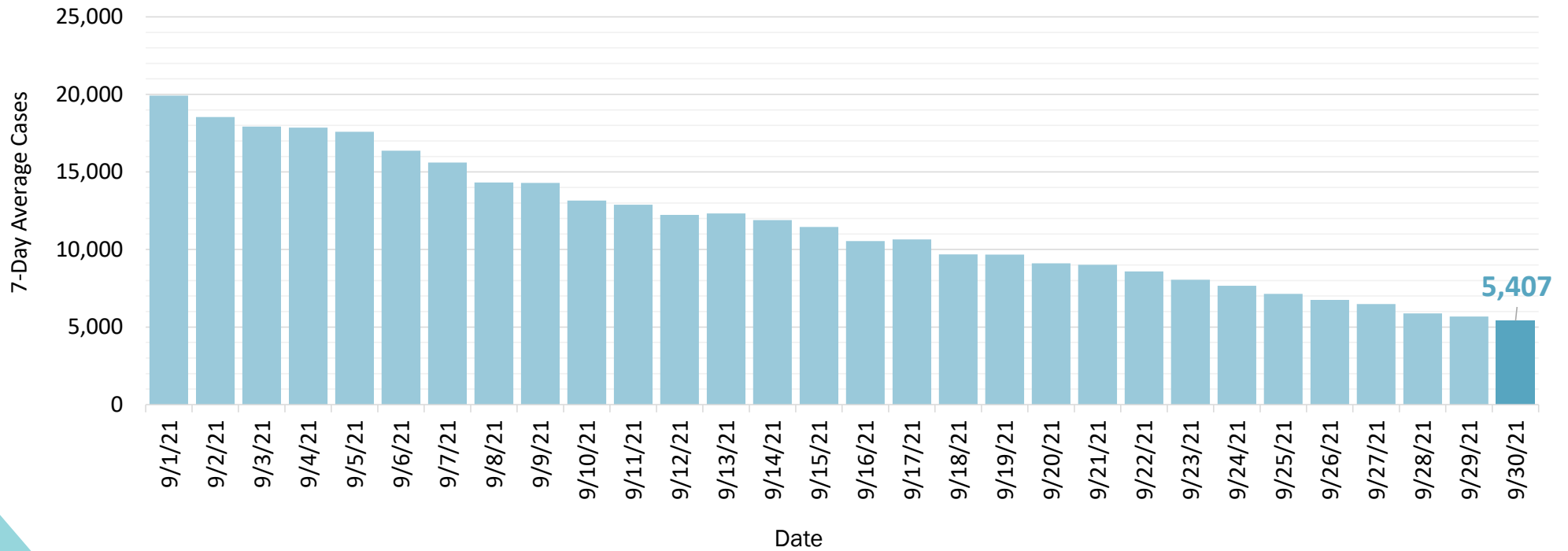
	Cases	Cases per 100,000	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate
Total	3,601,755	16,390	56,667	1.6%
Race				
Black	517,663	13,896	9,455	1.8%
White	2,083,226	12,272	41,001	2.0%
Other	539,641	42,339	4,640	0.9%
Unknown	461,225	N/A	1,571	N/A
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	1,090,853	18,584	12,206	1.1%
Non-Hispanic	1,920,759	11,926	40,853	2.1%
Unknown	590,143	N/A	3,608	N/A

Data are representative of Florida residents



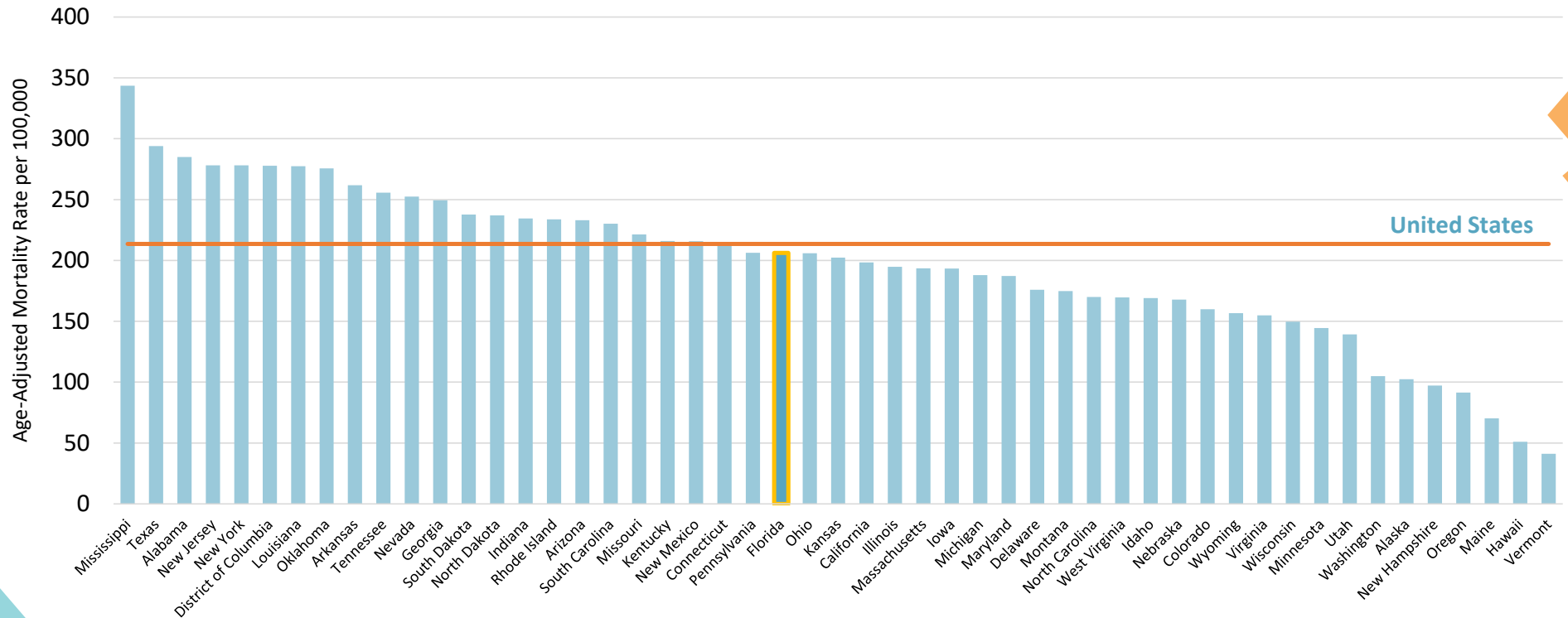
7-Day Average Case Trends

September 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021



Age-Adjusted COVID-19 Mortality Rate per 100,000 by State

January 1, 2020 - October 2, 2021



COVID-19 Vaccinations

COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines that have received emergency use authorization (EUA) and/or approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

- **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, December 11, 2020**
 - EUA expanded to include ages 12-15 (May 10, 2021).
 - FDA approved for ages 16 and older under the name Comirnaty (August 23, 2021).
 - Two doses, 21 days apart.
- **Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, December 18, 2020**
 - Ages 18 and older.
 - Two doses, 28 days apart.
- **Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (Johnson & Johnson), February 27, 2021**
 - Ages 18 and older.
 - One dose.

Additional Dose and Booster Dose

Individuals should talk to their health care provider about whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine additional dose or booster dose is appropriate for them.

- **Additional Dose**

- To mount a strong immune response among moderately and severely immunocompromised individuals.
- Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

- **Booster Dose**

- To increase the immune response of individuals who have completed the recommended number of initial doses for a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine Additional Dose

On August 12, 2021, the EUAs for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines were amended to include an additional (third) dose for moderately and severely immunocompromised individuals.

Guidance

- Pfizer-BioNTech: Ages 12 and older.
- Moderna: Ages 18 and older.
- Administered at least 28 days following the two-dose regimen.

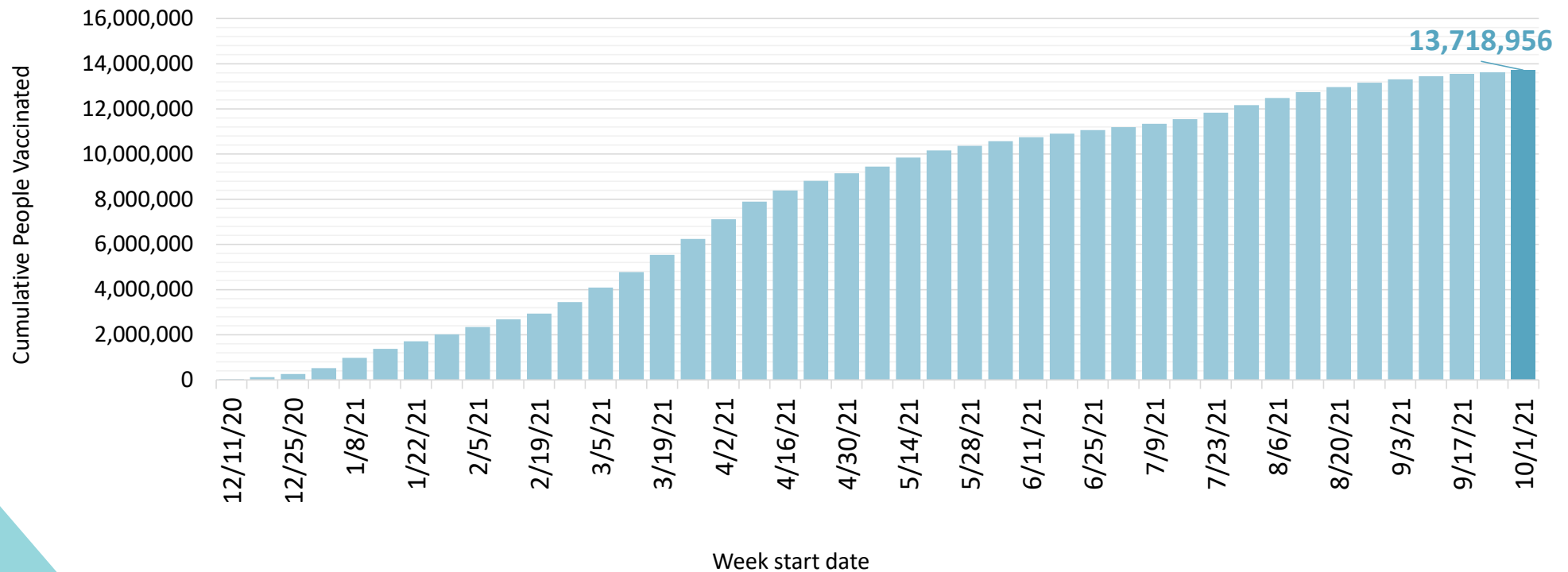
COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose

On September 22, 2021, the EUA was amended for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to allow for a single booster dose to be administered at least six months after completion of the primary two-dose series in individuals:

- Ages 65 and older.
- Ages 18-64 who have underlying medical conditions.
- Ages 18-64 at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting.
- Ages 18-64 who live in long-term care settings.

Cumulative Individuals Vaccinated by Week Against COVID-19

December 11, 2020 - October 7, 2021



COVID-19 Vaccinations by Age Group

December 11, 2020 - October 7, 2021

Age Group	2021 Population	Vaccinated	% of Population Vaccinated
12-19	1,972,084	1,079,179	55%
20-29	2,744,987	1,467,497	53%
30-39	2,784,698	1,750,543	63%
40-49	2,669,253	1,902,505	71%
50-59	2,925,172	2,250,328	77%
60-64	1,438,783	1,203,919	84%
65+	4,584,066	4,064,979	89%

COVID-19 Vaccinations by Race and Ethnicity

December 11, 2020 - October 7, 2021

	2021 Population Ages 12+	Vaccinated	% of Eligible Population Vaccinated
Race			
Black	3,092,685	1,217,993	39%
White	14,994,181	8,352,789	56%
Other	1,032,177	2,240,980	*
Unknown	N/A	1,907,194	N/A
Ethnicity			
Hispanic	4,935,168	3,084,297	62%
Non-Hispanic	14,183,875	6,473,542	46%
Unknown	N/A	4,161,117	N/A

**For individuals who identify as Other, the vaccinated population is larger than the 2021 population estimates.*

Data are representative of Florida residents

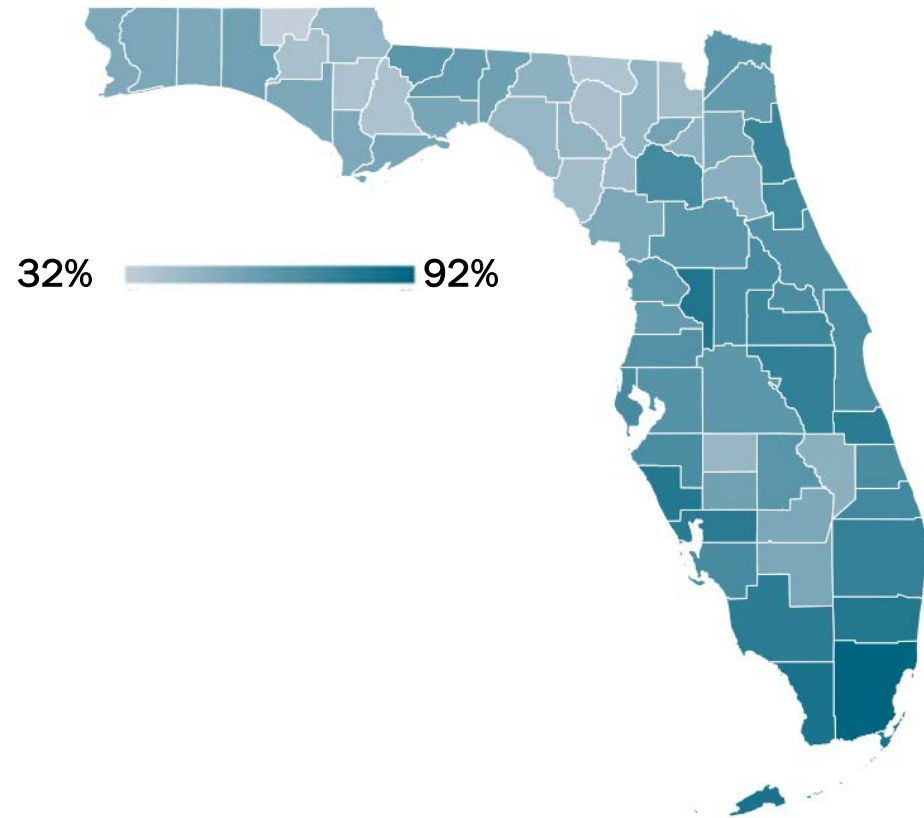


COVID-19 Vaccination Rates per 100,000 Population

December 11, 2020 - October 7, 2021

Counties with the Highest Rates

County	2021 Population Ages 12+	Percent of Population
Miami-Dade	2,523,479	92%
Broward	1,692,280	82%
Monroe	68,463	81%
Osceola	338,740	79%
Sarasota	401,856	76%



Data are representative of Florida residents

COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Strategies

COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Efforts

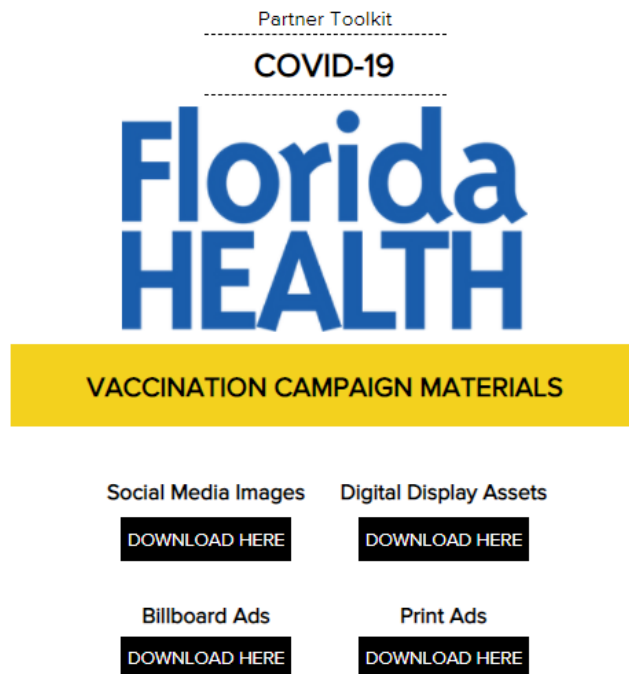


The FDOH is actively deploying statewide media campaigns to provide the public with information about COVID-19 vaccines and encourage vaccination statewide.

- **Digital and Social Media Ads:** Reached more than 19.5 million people and generated more than 107.8 million impressions.
- **TV and Radio Ads:** Generated more than 23.8 million impressions.



COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for Partners



- FDOH developed and disseminated a toolkit to partners including the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida Department of Children and Families, and others.
- Features campaign assets that can be used for any promotional efforts related to the COVID-19 vaccines.
- The toolkit is available for partners to [download online.](#)



COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Treatment

Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Treatment

- Monoclonal antibody therapy treatment is for individuals who have contracted or been exposed to COVID-19:
 - Reduces the risk of death/hospitalization by 70 – 85%.
 - Reduces the risk of developing symptomatic disease by over 80%.
 - Can help eliminate outbreaks in long-term care facilities.
- Florida was among the first in the nation to significantly expand access to these treatments for both COVID-19 positive and exposed individuals.
- Providing these treatments outside of hospitals afforded the opportunity for hospitals to devote resources to more seriously ill patients and reduced COVID-19 admissions.

Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Treatment

Three COVID-19 monoclonal antibody therapy treatments have received EUA from the FDA:

- **REGEN-COV**

- COVID-19 positive patients ages 12 and older.
- Amended to include post-exposure prophylaxis use (July 30, 2021).
- Outpatient treatment via IV infusion or subcutaneous injection (June 3, 2021).

- **Bamlanivimab and Etesevimab**

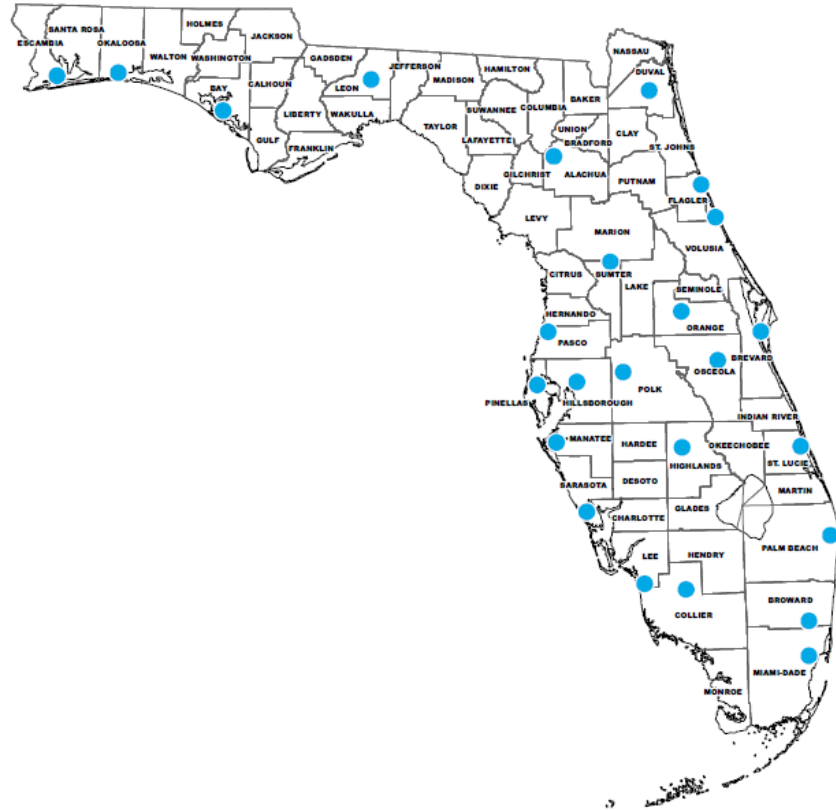
- COVID-19 positive patients ages 12 and older.
- Amended to include post-exposure prophylaxis use (September 16, 2021).
- Outpatient treatment via IV infusion.

- **Sotrovimab**

- COVID-19 positive patients ages 12 and older.
- Outpatient treatment via IV infusion.

Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Treatment

- 25 treatment sites opened between August 12, 2021 – September 9, 2021.
- Sites average nearly 3,000 combined doses daily.
- A total of 135,919 doses administered as of October 10, 2021.
- Strike Teams have provided 721 treatments in 50 long-term care facilities as of October 10, 2021.

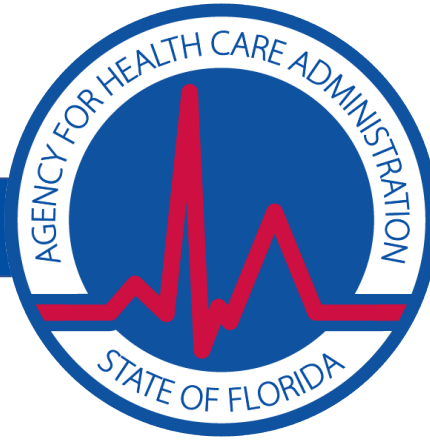


Resources

- **Weekly Florida Summary Statistics**
 - <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/>
- **Daily Cases and Death**
 - https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailycases
- **7-Day Average County Data**
 - <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>
- **Community Profile Report**
 - <https://healthdata.gov/Health/COVID-19-Community-Profile-Report/gqxm-d9w9>
- **Hospitalization Admissions**
 - <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#new-hospital-admissions>

Thank you!





COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Senate Health Policy Committee

Kimberly Smoak

Deputy Secretary of Health Quality Assurance

October 13, 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATES

- Federal Regulatory Flexibilities
- Hospital Updates
- Long-Term Care Updates
- Infection Control & Prevention Efforts



FEDERAL REGULATORY WAIVERS

As with most emergencies, the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services instituted a series of regulatory flexibilities in response to COVID-19.

Nursing Homes

- Waiver of 3-day prior hospitalization for Medicare reimbursement
- Flexibility in room utilization to accommodate surge

Hospitals

- Alternate Care Sites
- Acute care at home/hospitals without walls

All Providers

- Waiver of certain physical environment requirements
- Waiver of prescriptive requirements for alcohol-based hand-rub dispensers



HOSPITAL UPDATES

HOSPITAL CAPACITY

- As a result of Governor DeSantis' leadership in expanding access to Monoclonal Antibody Treatments, Florida Hospitals have experienced an over 73% decrease in hospitalizations, accounting for a more than 40-day consecutive decline.
- During the most recent surge in hospitalizations, hospitals continued to provide non-COVID related emergency and surgical care, including elective surgeries, which attributed to the overall Hospital capacity/census level.
- Access to Monoclonal Antibody Therapy and Vaccine ensures hospitals have the bed capacity for Floridians seeking other lifesaving services.
- As of October 9, only 6.78% of Inpatient Beds and 17.05% of ICU beds were in use for COVID-19, below the national average of 8.53% and 21.47% respectively.



LONG-TERM CARE UPDATES

ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

- The Agency remains committed to ensuring the safety of Florida's seniors residing in Long-Term Care facilities.
- From the onset of the pandemic, Governor DeSantis' Senior First strategy has prioritized seniors access to health care services, including COVID-19 vaccinations.
- This commitment also includes ensuring Monoclonal Antibody Therapy is available to Long-Term Care facilities.
- As a result of Governor DeSantis' leadership in expanding access to Monoclonal Antibody Treatments, Nursing Homes have experienced an over 124% decrease in staff cases and 71% decrease in resident cases.
- The Agency continues to conduct outreach to health care associations and providers on third doses and boosters.



LONG-TERM CARE UPDATES

INFECTION CONTROL & PREVENTION

- The Agency continues to work in partnership with the Department of Health's Health Care Associated Infection Team (HAI Team) to ensure the safety and sanitation of Long-Term Care facilities.
- This includes conducting joint visits to facilities and providing educational resources on appropriate infection control and prevention standards.
- Infection control and prevention is also reviewed during each facility's recertification survey.



LONG-TERM CARE UPDATES

INFECTION CONTROL & PREVENTION

- The Agency also completes Focused Infection Control Surveys as required by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Infection Control Surveys:
 - All Nursing Home related case information is now reported directly to CMS, through the National Healthcare Safety Network.
 - This reporting initially began in June 2020 and was expanded in June 2021.
 - Nursing Homes are identified for surveys based on this criteria:
 - 3 or more Resident Positive Cases since last reporting
 - 1 or More Resident Cases from COVID-Free



QUESTIONS?

